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ordinary man ought to understand, but which the trained economist finds it difficult to render comprehensible even to his own mind.

HENRY R. SEAGER.

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*The Future of the American Negro.* By BOOKER T. WASHINGTON. Pp. x, 244. Price, \$1.50. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co., 1899.

Mr. Booker T. Washington's book on "The Future of the American Negro" is largely a *resumé*, as the introduction intimates, of what this distinguished negro educator has had to say from time to time upon the theme nearest his heart—industrial education. The negro problem, as it is called, still continues to be one of the most absorbing topics of the times, and Mr. Washington's nineteen years of work in the populous Black Belt of the South have afforded him valuable opportunities to observe, compare, and reach conclusions that are of great worth on the subject. To such a spokesman the thoughtful public willingly lends an attentive ear.

Mr. Washington is well known to be a strong believer in industrial education; he asserts unequivocally that "in too large measure the negro race began its development at the wrong end," that "industrial independence is the first condition for lifting up any race," that the negro must become a producer, meeting the economic demands by industrial training. Chapter I is devoted to a brief sketch of the negro's introduction into America, his increase and his part in the country's life from the earliest times to the end of the Reconstruction era. Chapter II aims to show the interdependence of all parts of our common country and of our people—especially in the southland—in connection with a view of the present conditions there. He insists that knowledge will benefit the race little "except as its power is pointed in a direction that will bear upon the present needs and conditions of the race," and he declares himself in possession of a strong brotherly sympathy for the entire South—all classes and races—suffering from the burdens of the situation. Chapter III pictures the prosperous plantation of *ante-bellum* days, and pays tribute to the methods then followed which produced colored men skilled in the trades. This is contrasted with the conditions of the present time and the almost utter lack of such skill which places him at a disadvantage in the industrial world. Chapter IV emphasizes the preceding one by statement of the author's conception of the proper use of education and by illustrations showing to what this lack of skill has led. Chapter V logically follows with the setting forth of the plan of industrial training carried out in the author's own school—Tuskegee,

Alabama—which he sums up as aiming at making teachers and industrial leaders who will push forward similar training throughout the Black Belt. The negro conferences for which Tuskegee has become noted are also sketched, with motives and *modus operandi*.

Chapter VI gives the author's views on the franchise. He defines his position as being subservient to the interests of his race and the whole South, and his policy as one of non-activity in party politics. He attributes the present state of affairs to the "unfortunate" beginning during the Reconstruction era and to mutual misunderstandings between the two races in the South. We find here in an open letter to the State Constitutional Convention of Louisiana, what is perhaps the fullest public expression of Mr. Washington's opinion on political subjects,—a manly, sensible, strong appeal for protection of the ballot, for equal voting tests for both races, for the upholding of law. The permanent cure, he affirms, will come most of all through "industrial development of the negro" which will make him a producer, a property holder, a tax payer, and therefore a careful voter, and he prophesies a division of the negro vote on economic issues.

Chapter VII passes by all theories as to emigration and colonization as impracticable. The desirable relations between the races are dwelt upon, and the negro's weak as well as strong points are summarized and analyzed to a certain extent. It is interesting to note that, despite the frequent assertions of a wrong beginning in negro education that led the race away from a proper consideration of the "dignity of labor," we meet at this point the equally emphatic assertion that the negro "is not ashamed or afraid to work." The lynching evil is forcibly treated at the close, showing, as all right thinking persons must admit, that naught but moral deterioration for all races concerned can follow such utter disregard of law. The eighth and last chapter consists of a general summary of the preceding views and of a series of suggestions as to a future policy. Mr. Washington enumerates six dangers: in impatient extremists among the negroes of the North incapable of understanding the southern situation; in the white South's allowing itself without protest to be represented by the mob; in discouragement to the race under present conditions; in exaggerated reports of race troubles; in ignorance and idleness; and in unjust legislation against the race. His remedy is closer identification of the negro with the South and its interests, southern white interest in negro schools to be actively shown by white teachers, and industrial training for the race, concerning which he says "I believe that slavery laid the foundation for the solution of the problem that is now before us in the South." Mr. Washington grants that professional men will be needed, but we gather as his opinion that there will not

be a very decided *raison d'être* for them until there is a colored constituency to support them, and also that, after all, leaders must be those largely able to "infuse themselves into agriculture, mechanics, domestic employment and business."

There are three points, in fact, that might be taken to sum up the book as a whole, and upon which the author places from beginning to end continuous, strenuous insistence. First, that the education first given the negro, based on methods used in New England, was a serious mistake and the possible cause of the lack of progress along economic lines. This is only a half truth. When we consider the universally acknowledged, phenomenal progress of the race since the war we question whether the race would have stood where it does to-day in general prosperity, in intelligence and in the respect of the world had industrial training been at all practicable at that date. The second point is the generally admitted necessity of amicable relations between the races, especially in the South. Third, industrial education is the solution of the problem. The unbounded efficacy of this remedy will be doubted by some.

But, taking the book as a whole, it is an earnest, thoughtful, well-wrought plea for industrial training, just such a book as would be expected from Mr. Washington whose heart and soul are bound up in his worthy and magnificent work in the South. It is epigrammatic, anecdotal, persuasive, and abounds in sensible suggestions, not the least of which is that more attention be given to the race history, to collecting relics that mark race progress and to perpetuate in durable form race achievements. Viewed from any standpoint this work of 244 pages makes a contribution of permanent value to the race discussions. There is one defect, however, which must be noted, aside from that of the attempt to marshal all facts concerning a people as logical material to prove any one thing. Considering the title the book bears it is defective in that higher education is not allowed to play any part in this discussion relative to the future of the American negro, except perhaps to "point a moral or adorn a tale," or to illustrate humorously its mistaken uses. The reasoning connected with mental development all trends along the line that such development is worthless except as it can be traded for a material something (p. 76). I cannot believe that either the white or "colored" race is ready as yet to commit itself solely and irrevocably, along educational lines, to the discipleship of materialistic utilitarianism.

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